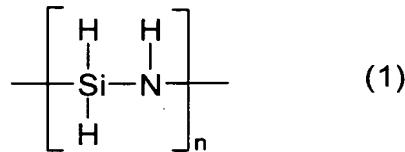


Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A coating for metal surfaces which is composed of

- a scratch-resistant perhydropolysilazane base coat and
- an upper protective coat comprising at least one perhydropolysilazane of the formula (1) and photocatalytic titanium dioxide



where n is an integer and is such that the perhydropolysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol.

2. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in claim 1, wherein the upper protective coat has a thickness of at least 1 micrometer, ~~preferably 2 to 20 micrometers, more preferably 3 to 10 micrometers.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in claim 1 and/or 2, wherein the ratio of perhydropolysilazane to titanium dioxide in the photocatalytic upper protective coat is 1:0.01 to 1:100, ~~preferably 1:0.1 to 1:50, more preferably 1:1 to 1:5.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the titanium dioxide used is in the anatase modification form.

5. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the particle size of the titanium dioxide particles is in the range of 0.001-0.5 μm .

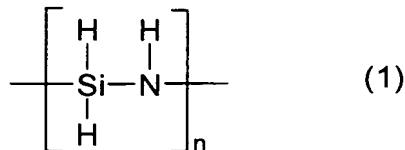
6. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a self-cleaning coating for a

metal surfaces, in which first of all surface comprising in a first step

a.) applying a perhydropolysilazane solution comprising a catalyst and, and optionally if desired one or more cobinders, in a solvent is applied to the metal surface as a base coat and

subsequently in a second step

b.) applying a further protective coat is applied to this to the base coat or to the metal surface directly, said the protective coat comprising at least one perhydropolysilazane of the formula (1) and photocatalytic titanium dioxide



where n is an integer and is such that the perhydropolysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol.

7. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the concentration of perhydropolysilazane in the solvent for the base coat and the protective coat is in the range from 0.01% to 40% by weight.

8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 6 and/or 7, wherein wherein the first applying step and the second applying step further comprise curing the base coat and the protective coating to the metal surface and wherein the curing of the coats base coat and the curing of the protective coat takes place at room temperature to 200°C.

9. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims 6 to 8, wherein when a claim 6, further comprising curing the base coat to the metal surface is applied in step a) it is first cured before applying the protective coat is applied.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a coating as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5 as a~~ A self-cleaning protective coating for a metallic surface comprising the coating as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The use~~ self-cleaning protective coating as claimed in claim 10, wherein ~~the protective coating is on rim~~ the metallic surface is a rim, especially aluminum rims.

12. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 1, wherein the upper protective coat has a thickness of between 2 to 20 micrometers.

13. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 1, wherein the upper protective coat has a thickness of between 3 to 10 micrometers.

14. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of perhydropolysilazane to titanium dioxide in the upper protective coat is 1:0.1 – 1:50.

15. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of perhydropolysilazane to titanium dioxide in the upper protective coat is 1:1 – 1:5.

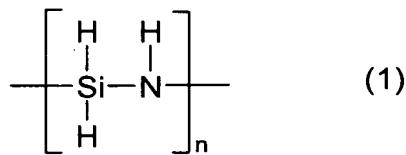
16. (New) The self cleaning protective coating as claimed in claim 11, wherein the rim is an aluminum rim.

17. (New) A metal having a self cleaning surface made in accordance with the process of claim 6.

18. (New) The metal as claimed in claim 17, wherein the metal is in the form of a rim.

19. (New) The metal as claimed in claim 17, wherein the rim is an aluminum rim.

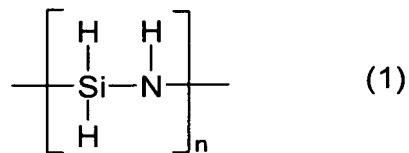
20. (New) A metal having a surface coated with the coating as claimed in claim 1.
21. (New) The metal as claimed in claim 20, wherein the metal is in the form of a rim.
22. (New) The metal as claimed in claim 21, wherein the rim is an aluminum rim.
23. (New) A coating for metal surfaces consisting essentially of
 - a.) a scratch-resistant perhydropolysilazane base coat and
 - b.) an upper protective coat comprising at least one perhydropolysilazane of the formula (1) and photocatalytic titanium dioxide



where n is an integer such that the perhydropolysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol.

24. (New) A metal having a surface coated with the coating as claimed in claim 23.
25. (New) The metal as claimed in claim 24, wherein the metal is in the form of a rim.
26. (New) The metal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the rim is an aluminum rim.
27. (New) A coating for metal surfaces comprising:

- a.) a scratch-resistant perhydropolysilazane base coat and
- b.) an upper protective coat comprising at least one perhydropolysilazane of the formula (1) and photocatalytic titanium dioxide



where n is an integer such that the perhydropolysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol.

28. (New) A metal having a surface coated with the coating as claimed in claim 27.
29. (New) The metal as claimed in claim 28, wherein the metal is in the form of a rim.
30. (New) The metal as claimed in claim 29, wherein the rim is an aluminum rim.